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Name CIA men in Afghanistan

By TIM WHEELER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 — The CIA began a program of armed intervention in Afghanistan at least one year before Soviet troops ever entered that nation it was charged today, by a prominent Washington magazine that specializes in information on the spy organization.

To back up its charges, the magazine "Counter Spy" published names of prominent CIA operatives involved in the armed activities. "Counter Spy" has itself made national news over the past years for its articles which have reliably named prominent CIA operatives in various nations around the world.

Konrad Ege, an editor of the magazine and author of an article in its December issue titled, "U.S. Intervention in Afghanistan" told the Daily World today that his research shows that for well over a year a special CIA task force under the command of CIA agent Robert P. Lessard has conducted counterrevolutionary activities against Afghanistan using the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan as its headquarters.

Ege's charges cast a light on President Carter's drive to establish a new anti-Soviet, anti-national liberation war alliance in the Persian Gulf, with the U.S., China, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan supplying arms to the so-called Afghan rebels.

Carter lied

Ege said the Carter Administration is lying when it says CIA covert operations are a response to the movement of Soviet troops in Afghanistan last December. "The point of our story is that the U.S. involvement in Afghanistan is at least one year old — far longer than the Soviet troop presence in Afghanistan," he said.

In a press release issued yesterday, Ege had charged that "it is important to note that these CIA operations were in support of Afghans violently oppos-

ing progressive improvement for their fellow citizens, such as needed land reform and equality for women."

He charged that Lessard was a CIA undercover agent in Iran for 10 years, an exceptionally long period, during which the CIA tutored SAVAK, the Shah's secret police, in torture techniques and other methods of mass terror.

Lessard, Ege continued, also was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan before the April, 1978 democratic revolution. Lessard has been assigned to Pakistan since July 1977.

Names CIA officers

Other CIA officers in Pakistan include, John J. Reagan, David E. Thurman (both in Islamabad) and Richard D. Jackman (in Karache).

Ege pointed out that the State Department and the Pentagon have met with Ziya Nezri, a U.S. citizen of Afghan nationality, "who is one of the leading figures of the reactionary forces which began fighting the Afghan government in 1978."

Another, "rebel leader" Zia Nessery, is a U.S. citizen who has received support from the Rockefeller funded Asia Society, Ege said. Bashir Zikria, a principal organizer of the counterrevolutionary commandos is a professor at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and "commutes" to Pakistan, Ege charged.

"These facts prove that the U.S. government is deeply involved in the internal war of the Afghans," Ege continued. "U.S. governmental support for them not only violates national sovereignty and international law but also U.S. law," he said.

Against the law

He cited Section 960, Title XVIII, of the U.S. code which prohibits "any military or naval expedition or enterprise to be carried out from thence against the territory or dominion of any foreign prince or state..."

Ege continued, "Obviously the people of the United States have a right and a need to know of the U.S. governmental support for the so called, 'Afghan rebels' particularly since in their name and with their taxes a 'secret' war is being carried out...such CIA operations ultimately undermine the interests and national security of the U.S. people by bringing us all closer to war."

Ege's article also charges that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has a team working in Pakistan. Ege pointed out that the DEA, "has rarely limited itself to 'pure' prosecution of drug traffickers."

Ege referred to a recent article in the Canadian magazine "McCleans" that Afghan rebels have been purchasing arms from the U.S. with massive deliveries of heroin. The same "McCleans" article said Chinese men in Pakistan, first identified as "Hong Kong Chinese heroin dealers", later turned out to be "Chinese army officers and instructors," sent by the Beijing clique. Their aim was to train the so called "Afghan rebels" in subversion and mass murder. In either case, the Afghan rebel heroin is now reportedly reaching the streets of U.S. cities in massive quantities.

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